

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 /091 W
-----060231 281136Z /15

R 280622Z FEB 78 VOL ZDK TO ALL
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194
INFO CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2632

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, RO, YU
SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN HUA TO HIT THE ROAD?

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 1152 (B) BELGRADE 1484

1. SUMMARY: CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COULD
HIT A NEW HIGH THIS YEAR WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED FOREIGN
TOUR BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. SUCH A TRIP COULD
GENERATE SIGNIFICANT FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR CHINA'S
FOREIGN POLICIES AS WELL AT ITS (AND HUA'S) INTERNATIONAL
STATURE. END SUMMARY

2. IT APPEARS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT CHINA WILL
DRAMATIZE ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION THIS YEAR WITH
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A FOREIGN TOUR BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. REFTEL'S
REPORTS THAT HUA WILL VISIT YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA
ARE ECHOED BY A FEBRUARY 26 KYOTO REPORT THAT HUA
WILL RECIPROCATE TITO'S CHINA VISIT DURING A TOUR OF
OTHER COUNTRIES, OF WHICH FRANCE WAS MENTIONED. THE
KYOTO REPORT WAS PROMINENTLY CARRIED ON THE FRONT
PAGE OF THE LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED "WEN WEI PAO",

GIVING IT AT LEAST SOME CREDENCE.

3. ALTHOUGH IT NOW SEEMS PROBABLE CHINA WILL NOT HAVE A CHIEF OF STATE PER SE, HUA, AS CCP CHAIRMAN AND MAO'S DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR, WOULD COME THE CLOSEST TO MERITING A STATE VISIT. THIS WOULD REVERSE MAO'S PRACTICE OF NOT TRAVELING ABROAD AND SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE CHINA'S (AND HUA'S) INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND STATURE. CHINA'S STAND ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES--ESPECIALLY ITS ANTI-SOVIET POSTURE--COULD GAIN BROADER PUBLICITY AND ATTENTION DURING SUCH A VISIT THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE FROM REAMS OF PROPAGANDA ARTICLES AND BROADCASTS. BY HAVING MOHAMMED GO TO THE MOUNTAIN, THE VISITS WOULD ALSO SYMBOLIZE CHINA'S RETURN FROM AN ETHNOCENTRIC NATION PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS TO THE BANDUNG-ERA IMAGE OF A MODERN, INTERNATIONALLY ACTIVE COUNTRY. MOREOVER, UNPRECEDENTED VISITS TO EUROPE WOULD DEMONSTRATE CHINA'S INTEREST IN THE SECOND WORLD--BOTH AS PART OF ITS UNITED FRONT AGAINST MOSCOW AS WELL AS ITS UTILIZATION OF CLOSER RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHINA'S DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION.

4. WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE HOW HUA AND TENG HSIAO-PING WILL DIVIDE TITLES, RES-
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PONSIBILITIES AND POWER AFTER THE PRESENT NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, HUA'S EXPOSURE TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DURING WELL PUBLICIZED FOREIGN TRIPS WOULD ALSO ADD TO HIS DOMESTIC INFLUENCE AND STATUS.
SHOESMITH

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